



ALABAMA STATE SENATE
ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
11 SOUTH UNION STREET, 7TH FLOOR
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4600

J.T. "JABO" WAGGONER
SENATE MINORITY LEADER
P.O. BOX 660609
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35266-0609

HOME: 205-822-7443
CAPITOL: 334-242-7892

October 13, 2009

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: FCC Docket #: 07-52

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As Minority Leader of the Alabama Senate, I have an appreciation for the many difficult issues you and your colleagues grapple with on a daily basis, particularly considering the lightning speed of change in technology and communications.

On behalf of my constituents and citizens throughout Alabama, I am happy you made your September 21, 2009 speech to The Brookings Institution, "Preserving a Free and Open Internet," easily available on line. I certainly agree with your goal of guaranteeing the Internet remains an open platform for promoting innovation, investment and competition. As the FCC considers rule making, however, I caution you to consider the potential unintended consequences Net Neutrality regulations could have by discouraging new private sector investment and innovation.

I was co-sponsor of SB 373, a 2009 communications bill that reduced regulations on communications companies (telephone and cable) and encouraged both wireline and wireless competition. The bill was designed to create and preserve good paying jobs while at the same time promoting investment in Alabama's communication infrastructure. I have also supported Governor's Riley's Broadband Initiative with the goal of making broadband more ubiquitous and encouraging economic growth in Alabama.

It is my belief that consumers and businesses are benefiting from the competitive wireless communications market in Alabama. Any effort to impose government regulations on wireless technology will severely hurt our ability to spread broadband throughout the state. Proposed Net Neutrality rules would discourage infrastructure investment and, potentially, slow down the economic recovery.

In advance, I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Alabama State Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.T. Waggoner", written in a cursive style.

J.T. "JABO" Waggoner
Senate Minority Leader
District 16

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